DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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Soviets Propose:

PEACE TREATY FOR GERMANY NOW

Draft Guarantees Human Rights, German Unity, Withdrawal of Foreign Troops

Britain, France, U.S.A. and the Soviet Union should immediately get to work on a draft peace treaty for Germany to be presented to an International Peace Conference, the Soviet government proposed on March 10th.

An all-German government should take part in drawing up the treaty, the proposal stated. To this end the four powers in Germany should take steps to speed-up the establishment of an all-German government in accordance with the wishes of the German people.

Main points of the preliminary draft treaty submitted by the Soviet Union were:

1. Germany to be restored as united state.
2. **All occupation troops withdrawn within one year and war bases liquidated.**
3. **German people guaranteed all human rights including freedom of speech, press, religion and assembly.**
4. Anti-democratic organisations to be banned.
5. Equality for former soldiers and nazis in rebuilding Germany.
6. Ban on alliances directed against those states which fought Hitler.

The draft also proposed that Germany's frontier with Poland should run on the Oder-Neisse in accordance with the Potsdam Agreement, and that Germany would be allowed armed forces sufficient for defence purposes.

No economic limitations would be laid upon German peace industries or shipping.

(Text of Soviet proposals on page 2.)

BRITISH, AMERICANS, FREE MURDERERS

Seventeen more nazi war criminals, including three generals and a number of concentration camp guards, were released by the British and U. S. authorities in West Germany at the end of February.

The generals were Kurt Gallenkamp, Ernst Wendefeuer and Heinrich Boschirt, all found guilty of murder by allied courts after the end of the war and originally sentenced to death. General Gallenkamp was held responsible for the murder of 34 allied war prisoners, including three wounded British paratroopers.

The concentration camp guards freed included Margarethe Mewes, guilty of torture and murder in the women's concentration camp at Ravensbrueck, and Kurt Klebeck who killed 350 prisoners in the camp at Hannover-Ahlen.

The British authorities also granted parole to Field Marshal Manstein, serving a twelve year war crimes sentence, so that he could visit his sick wife.

50,000 WEST GERMANS SAY "NEIN" TO WAR PLANS

More than 50,000 West Germans have sat down in the last few weeks and written to their deputies, protesting against plans for a new West German army, according to reports from Bonn.

Particularly strong protests against the planned new nazi army continue to come from organised labour in all parts of the country.

The approval for remilitarisation originally expressed by Trade Union Federation Chief Christian Fette met such overwhelming opposition that he was forced to state that he now considered that the decision on a new army "should be placed in the hands of the people."

At a special closed meeting of the board of the Trade Union Federation held in Dusseldorf at the end of February, the representatives of most provincial organisations stated that they had come to the meeting armed with specific instructions from the members to reject remilitarisation.

Herr Engelhardt, district chairman of the Trade Union Federation in Wuerttemberg-Baden stated:

"My colleagues have sent me here with instructions to turn down flatly all suggestions of making an armed defence contribution. I am convinced that all the six million trade unionists in West Germany agree on this.

"The only solution for the German problem must be a peace treaty with the whole of Germany, a treaty which will enable us to rebuild Germany, and which will guarantee our workers bread and employment by reviving our trade with the east."

U. S. GENERAL'S BOMBSHELL

See Page 4

Documents of the Day:

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR PEACE TREATY

The draft proposals for a peace treaty with Germany, made by the Soviet Union on March 10th 1952 stated:

Participants

Great Britain, the Soviet Union, U.S.A., France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland and the other states whose armed forces took part in the war against Germany.

Political Principles

1. Germany will be restored as a united state. This will bring to an end the partitioning of Germany, and will give united Germany the opportunity to develop as an independent, democratic, peace-loving state.

2. All armed forces of the occupation powers must be withdrawn from Germany at the latest one year after a peace treaty with Germany comes into force. At the same time all foreign military bases on German territory will be liquidated.

3. The German people must be guaranteed democratic rights, so that all persons subject to German law, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, shall enjoy the human rights and the fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to practice their religion freely, freedom of political conviction, and the right of assembly.

4. Democratic parties and organisations in Germany must be guaranteed freedom of activity; they must have the right to decide freely on their internal affairs, to hold conferences and meetings, and they must enjoy the freedom of the press and publication.

5. Organisations opposed to democracy and the cause of the maintenance of peace will not be allowed to exist on German territory.

6. All former members of the German army, including the officers and generals, and all former nazis with the exception of those serving a sentence for crimes which they have committed, must be ensured the same civil and political rights as all other German citizens to participate in the contruction of a peace-loving democratic Germany.

7. Germany guarantees to enter into no coalition or military alliance directed against any state whose armed forces took part in the war against Germany.

Territory

The territory of Germany is governed by the decisions taken by the Potsdam Conference of the Great Powers.

(Territorial clauses of the Potsdam Agreement laid down that the Oder-Neisse line should form the German-Polish frontier, and that the former territory of East Prussia should be included in the Soviet Union and Poland. Ed.)

Economic Principles

No limitations will be laid upon the development of Germany's peace economy, which should serve to increase the prosperity of the German people. No limitations will be imposed on trade with other countries, merchant shipping, and entry to the world market.

Military Principles

1. Germany will be allowed to possess its own national armed forces (land, air and sea forces), necessary for the defence of the country.

2. Germany will be allowed to produce war material and equipment in quantities not exceeding those needed by the armed forces laid down for Germany in the peace treaty.

Germany and the United Nations Organisation

The states which conclude the peace treaty with Germany will support Germany's application for membership of the United Nations Organisation.

The preamble to the Soviet draft proposals stated in part:

Nearly seven years have passed since the conclusion of the war with Germany, but Germany still has no peace treaty, is partitioned and not on a footing of equality with other states. This abnormal state of affairs must be brought to an end.

The conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany is of great importance for the strengthening of peace in Europe. A peace treaty with Germany will make it possible to solve finally the problems which arose as a result of the Second World War. The European states which suffered under Hitler's aggression, and particularly Germany's neighbours, are deeply interested in the solution of these problems.

The necessity of speeding-up the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany is dictated by the fact that the danger of the re-establishment of German militarism, which has unleashed two world wars, has not yet been banished, since the decisions of the Potsdam Conference on this question have not been carried out. A peace treaty with Germany should ensure that a revival of German militarism and a German aggression are made impossible.

(Re-translated from the German)

Bonn answer demanded on peace treaty

The West German government must give a clear answer to the overwhelming demand for a peace treaty, the government of the German Democratic Republic stated on March 3rd, one week before the announcement of the Soviet draft terms.

On February 13th the East German government had asked the governments of the Big Four to speed up the conclusion of a peace treaty. Nine days later the West German government stated that a peace treaty was also the aim of their policy.

The East German government, in its latest statement, declared:

"If the statement of the Bonn government is really true, why do they not support our demand for the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty? The negotiations carried on by Adenauer in London, and the decisions of the Lisbon Conference give the lie to these claims.

"Our people demand a frank reply from the Bonn government as to whether they are for, or against, the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany."

On March 6th, West German Chancellor Dr Adenauer asked the western High Commissioners to clarify the attitude of the Soviet Union with regard to a peace treaty. He had taken this step, he said, "in order to counter Communist propaganda."

Official circles in East Germany commented that the steadily growing demand of the West German population for a peace treaty had forced the Bonn government to make a show of wanting a peace treaty.

FOUGHT NAZIS — PENSION CANCELLED

The West Berlin authorities have begun to cancel the pensions paid to victims of nazism and reject restitution claims on the grounds that the victims were legally imprisoned by the Gestapo.

Hermann Barnewsky, of 16 Nachtigal Platz, in the French Sector of the city, was sentenced to three and a half years imprisonment by a nazi court for "preparing an act of high treason."

The West Berlin restitution officer, turning down Barnewsky's claim, stated that it was invalid, since "Barnewsky was in 1937 a member of the Communist Party which was illegal at that time, and the preparation of high treason was a punishable offense."

Other nazi victims have had pensions cancelled because they have been arrested for collecting signatures for the Stockholm anti-atom bomb appeal.

Leipzig fair biggest since war

This year's famous trade fair in Leipzig, German Democratic Republic, from September 7th to 17th will be by far the biggest since the end of the war, and one of the biggest ever.

Foreign exhibitors have already booked twice as much stand space as they held at the 1951 fair.

Particularly big exhibits will come from the People's Democracies and from the Soviet Union. The Soviet exhibit, one of the main features of the fair for the past few years, will be housed in a completely reconstructed exhibition hall.

Buyers, who are expected from all parts of the world, will be able to judge for themselves the progress made in the first eighteen months of the East German Five Year Plan.

East German cooperative society flourishes

Membership in the Consumers' Cooperative Society (Konsum) of the German Democratic Republic has grown from 1.7 million in 1947 to 2.5 million at the beginning of this year, according to figures given at the Konsum Conference held in Berlin in February.

During the same period sales per head of the population have risen from 127 marks to 300 marks, and prices have remained stable or been reduced. In West Germany, on the other hand, sales have scarcely increased in value and have actually decreased in quantity.

BERLIN WELCOMES CZECHOSLOVAK PRESIDENT

Gottwald sees Democratic Germany

Thousands of Berliners packed the square in front of Berlin's East Station on March 11th to greet Klement Gottwald, first Czechoslovak President to visit a friendly, peace-loving Germany.

His visit to Wilhelm Pieck, President of the German Democratic Republic, showed the firm foundations upon which the friendship between the two nations now reposed, stated President Gottwald on his arrival.

"We are bound together in the common struggle against war, for a united Germany and a peace treaty" he stated.

During his stay in Germany President Gottwald was scheduled to visit the big new blocks of workers' flats going up in Berlin, factories hard at work on the Five Year Plan, and to have discussions with East German leaders.

Apart from the President and his wife the Czechoslovak delegation included Foreign Minister Viliam Siroky and four other members of the cabinet, leading government officers and two industrial workers who have distinguished themselves by their fine production records.

WEST GERMAN LEADERS IN ANTI-WAR CALL

Ninety leading West Germans, including prominent writers, clergy, sportsmen and trade unionists have called upon the West German people to elect delegates to an anti-remilitarisation congress planned for the end of March.

Signatories of the appeal include publisher Ernst Rowohlt, noted amateur boxer Fritz Pothoff, former Munich Lord Mayor Wilhelm Elfes, and Dortmund shop stewards' chairman Heinrich Diefenbruch. The congress appeal stated in part:

"A new war, whoever begins it, would expose Germany and the whole of Europe to the appalling fate which has befallen Korea. The overwhelming majority of the German people reject a conscription law, whatever conditions may be attached to it.

"We are attempting to bring together all Germans, without distinction of religious, social and political differences, in order to achieve the re-unification of our homeland on the basis of an understanding among Germans.

"We want a united homeland, independent in equal degree from both east and west, in the framework of a peaceful and democratic association of all the peoples of the world.

"Our first demand is for Germans themselves to reach early agreement on the preparation of free democratic elections to a German National Assembly in the whole of Germany."

In Frankfurt, American Zone, the local organisation of the Social Democratic Party, after a heated discussion, adopted a resolution demanding that the leadership of the party take a clear stand on remilitarisation.

"Our slogan must be: Not a man, not a pfennig for the new army" stated Georg Stierle, Social Democratic Deputy in the Bonn parliament, addressing the meeting.

Confirmation of the growing movement against rearmament was given by the "New York Times" on March 4th, which stated:

"The organised non-Communist agitation against rearmament has attained such proportions in West Germany that the government's ability to win a majority for a defence contribution is being questioned by some Allied officials.

"In the last three months opposition has become better organised, more definite and more widespread.

"Various public opinion polls show that the two principal motivations to the opposition to rearmament are a fear that rearmament means war and concern lest the rearmament of West Germany end all hope of reunification with East Germany."

Police refuse army service — arrested

Sixty members of the West German frontier police have been put under arrest in Hamburg, British Zone, for refusing service in a military unit, the "Hamburger Volkszeitung" reported.

"The men were arrested after they had refused to sign a form pledging them to serve for a minimum of four years in the 'European Army' now under formation" the paper reported.

Diplomat's Diary Shocks Berlin

AMERICAN GENERAL WANTS TO HIT BELOW BELT

What does an American general do with his time in Moscow? If his name is Major General Robert W. Grow, U. S. Army Attaché in Moscow until the end of 1951, he spends his time noting "good targets" and proposing to hit below the belt.

This is revealed by the general's own secret diary, extracts from which have just been published in Berlin.

Our attack should be directed at enemy weakness. Although the military services are primarily concerned with military weapons and methods, we must understand that this war is total war and is fought with all weapons.
We must learn that in this war it is fair to hit below the Belt.

"Our attack should be directed at enemy weakness. Although the military services are primarily concerned with military weapons and methods, we must understand that this war is total war and is fought with all weapons.

"We must learn that in this war it is fair to hit below the belt."

Those are two typical sentences from General Grow's private diary, publication of which in East Berlin has caused a sensation in Germany.

Extracts from the diary, with facsimiles reproduced on these pages, were printed in the book "On the War Path", by Richard Squires, former major in the British Army of Occupation. The book has so far appeared only in German (*), but GERMAN REPORT considers it so important that we have decided to devote these two pages exclusively to it.

Confirmation that the Grow Diary is genuine has come from an unexpected source: the Pentagon in Washington.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, MARCH 7, 1952

By the Associated Press

WASHINGTON, March 6. —

The Department of the Army said today that "an individual, believed to be a Soviet agent," sneaked into an American general's room in Frankfurt last summer and took pictures of his diary.

The diary expressed the general's views that war with Russia is imminent.

The Army officer was identified as Maj. Gen. Robert W. Grow, 56, a former United States Military Attaché in Moscow. He has since been re-assigned to the Pentagon here.

The Army announcement said that excerpts from the diary had been printed in an anti-American book which attempted "to prove" that Gen. Grow and the United States Army are "tools of Wall Street" and "warmongers," and that "Grow was a spy."

That is the version of the affair circulated by the U. S. Army. Readers of these pages can judge for themselves whether the book "On The War Path" made these claims with good reason.

The author, Major Richard Squires, after a lively personal account of the way in which big business interests turned the disarmament of Germany into the remilitarisation of Germany, gives his own version of the way in which he got hold of the Grow Diary. Here it is:

*) *Auf dem Kriegspfad. By Richard Squires. Rütten & Loening, Berlin W 8. Price 3.60 marks. (Some of the quotations in this article have been retranslated from the German).*

"One fine day in August 1951 . . met an old friend, the Berlin correspondent of one of the London new ers. Opening his case, he gave me a fairly large sealed package. 'Do open it here' he said. 'Wait until you get home. It is a copy of the diary an American general. I got it from an American officer in Frankfurt had a chance to read it, and was so shaken that he had a photo-copy ma He asked me to find a way to bring the contents to the attention of the lic'."

Here is a selection of the extract blished by Major Squires:

Dec. Got some lett Dec. Got a letter from Geo King who has showing my letters to Smith who is interested. I am urging action on preparat after next war, which is where we have f before. He says Smith is entrusted but there is little action. He also points out this very critical year.

February 26th 1951, "Got some s off. Got a letter from Geo. King who has been showing my letters t ith who is interested. I am urging action on preparation for after ne ar, which is where we have failed before. He says Smith is interes ut there is little action. He also (feels?) that this is very critical y

February 23rd 1951. "Letter fro lling makes it clear that my letters go to all main departments and al the President."

Many pages of the diary are fill th cryptic accounts of his activities as Army Attaché in Moscow:

Monday, January 8th. "I took to the south to look for A. A. A. (Anti-Aircraft Area. Ed.) but cou d none in the new vicinity."

Friday, January 12th. "Spent hole morning exploring new roads south east of the city with Thorn d Abbel. Found no new A. A. A. positions, but got some good data e territory."

Sunday January 28th. "Up and h eakfast at 10 a. m. Took the subway to B Ring and walked around fo hour in the vicinity of the Frunse Academy. Could not find anyth ew, but there are signs that some horses are kept in the old cavalry es."

One day in spring 1951 General visited Yasnaya Polyana, the place where Tolstoy lived and worked. diary entry for April 16th read as follows:

"The Tolstoy house was closed (Monday), but this did not worry us since we had not gone there w e intention of seeing it . . . I noted the numbers of many military ve Saw some A. A. equipment."

On May 11th 1951 he visited Mu 200 miles east of Moscow, but noted with obvious regret "nothing of m interest", adding a few lines later, however:

on rear basis. Rail Bridge in R.R. is good target.

"Only bridge is R. R. (railroad, nd is good target."

On May 12th General Grow vi Shatura, near Murom, and noted:

Shatura area Big power plant at Shatura area. Great Turbuch bogs in vicinity. good target.

"Big power plant at Shatura r peat of which huge bogs in vicinity. Good target."

Many of the entries refer to a n Mr. Pope. General Grow does not identify him further beyond stati t he is British.

Friday, January 19th. "Pope d in. He insists that we have not yet found all the positions. Cor ut we found four which he had not yet discovered."

Wednesday, March 21st. "Pope dropped in. He gave us information on the Leningrad A. A. A. and confirmed what we had observed here. In the afternoon I drafted report on the factory which we have been watching for six months."

Other non-Americans turn up in the diary too.

March 2nd. "Got report from Major Bush and Colonel Guimond (Canadian) on their trip to Tbilissi. They found no unusual military activity."

Friday, January 26th. "Sgourdeous, the Greek, also hopes for a decisive clash. He is one of the few fighters amongst the Europeans."

March 15th. "Had a nice talk with Sgourdeous at dinner. He is appalled at our indecision, just as I am. Both of us believe that if we get tough and show determined leadership the western Europeans will tag along."

In another entry Grow describes the Turkish Naval Attaché Kir Oglu as "a fine guy, anxious to work with us", and on March 9th he wrote:

"Dispatched report on the observations made by the Turkish Attaché."

On May 23rd he visited Rostov on Don and after confiding to his diary that he thought it a beautiful city continued:

long time but no work going on. The bridge here is best target in S. Russia. This together with bridge over Kuban R. at Kavkayskaya, would cut off all the Caucasus except for poor lines to Astrakan which could easily be cut.

"The bridge here is best target in S. Russia. This together with bridge over Kuban R. at Kavkayskaya, would cut off all the Caucasus except for poor lines to Astrakhan which could easily be cut."

The diary reveals that Admiral Kirk, U. S. Ambassador in Moscow, took a personal interest in the espionage activities carried out by his subordinates. General Grow reports proudly on March 27th 1951:

I threw a minor bombshell by reading our paper which definitely estimated action this year or before July 52 by all forms of warfare including Europe. It was backed up by capabilities and reasons. Amb. accepted our paper as sound & worthy of serious consideration.

"I threw a minor bombshell by reading our paper which definitely estimated action this year or before July 1952 by all forms of warfare including Europe. It was backed up by capabilities and reasons. Amb. accepted our paper as sound and worthy of serious consideration."

But even Grow was forced to notice that other peoples did not agree with his ideas of the way in which the future should be shaped. He repeatedly noted that it would be dangerous to assume that the Russian people did not support their government, and time and again complained about the "weak" attitude adopted by the British and the French.

When he journeyed to West Germany in the summer of 1951 to take part in a conference of American Intelligence bosses in Europe General Grow found that the same attitude was prevalent there too. On July 4th he wrote:

"Returning through the village I talked to a shop-keeper, who conveyed that he could not stand Americans. I came back depressed, because I am afraid that many Germans think the same."

The Grow Diary, as quoted by Major Richard Squires, ends there. Squires sums up:

"It is a good sign when people like Grow are depressed. The people of the world must be vigilant, they must watch people like him who are trying to start wars. The people must be watchful and consistent in the defence of their dearest possessions — peace and liberty."

East Germany Charges:

"U. N. COMMISSIONER WAS NAZI AGENT"

At the beginning of March the Information Office of the German Democratic Republic made serious charges against members of the Commission established by the United Nations to investigate the conditions for holding elections in Germany. A statement issued by the Information Office said:

The representative of Iceland is a certain Kristjan Albertson, who began his career on right-wing Icelandic newspapers. In 1934 during a stay in Italy, he was decorated by Mussolini with the title "Chevalier of the Crown of Italy."

From January 1935 until the end of the Hitler dictatorship he worked as lecturer at Berlin University. This was only camouflage for his work as nazi agent and spy in Denmark. During the war, when all foreigners in Germany were interned or strictly watched, he repeatedly travelled to Denmark.

In May 1940, just after the nazis had occupied Denmark and Norway, he requested and received a 50 percent pay rise.

Ali Haidar Abbasi, another commission member, is a high official of the Pakistan Foreign Office. His brother, H. M. Abbasi is secretary of the Pakistan-West-German Trade Commission, and declared recently at a press conference. "The nazis were not such bad types. There are many Englishmen and Americans who think today that they took the wrong side in the second world war."

Ali Haidar Abbasi has publicly expressed full agreement with his brother's political utterances.

Elections are internal German Affair

EAST GERMAN LEADERS DEFINE ATTITUDE

Dr. Lothar Bolz, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, addressing the Second Political Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on December 11th 1951 stated:

The government of the German Democratic Republic considers that the holding of free all-German elections for the National Assembly is an internal matter for the German people themselves.

Internal Affair

The creation of an Investigation Commission of the United Nations would represent an intervention in the internal peaceful affairs of the Germans. This would be contrary to the interests and desires of the people and contrary to the principles of the United Nations.

Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations expressly lays down, as one of its basic conditions, the equality of rights of all peoples, and the national right of self-determination. In addition Article 2, Paragraph 7, lays down that nothing can give the United Nations the right to interfere in affairs which by their nature fall within the competence of a state.

We propose that ... all-German elections should be held in the whole of Germany on the basis of a common Electoral Law. I should like to emphasize that our proposal is that this law should be drawn up by voluntary agreement between the representatives of East and West Germany, and that it should be based upon the Weimar electoral regulations of 1924.

The claim that it was necessary first to investigate the possibility of holding free elections was only raised in order to bury finally the demand for all-German elections and thus to prevent a peaceful development of the entire German people, and to make it impossible to overcome peacefully the present partitioning of Germany.

We are determined to do our part to see to it that the question of holding elections in Germany does not become bogged down in months of futile discussions, discussions in which it would finally be drowned. The peace-loving German people will use all their strength and determination in order to ensure that this plan is frustrated. The German people firmly reject the creation of a United Nations Investigation Commission as an intervention in their internal affairs.

*

Despite the objections of the government of the German Democratic Republic, and the opposition of the delegates of the Soviet Union, Ukraine, Bielo-Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia, the United Nations decided to establish an Investigation Commission. Addressing the East German People's Chamber on January 9th 1952 Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl stated:

With the help of such a commission it is possible to delay the elections indefinitely. The first report is to be made by September 1st this year, and then supplementary questions can be raised which also need investigation ... During such delays the agreements on the remilitarisation of Germany and its inclusion in the war pacts could be put into effect.

Impartial Body?

The United Nations claim that they have established an 'impartial body', but at the same time they let fall the mask and announce that this allegedly impartial body will have the task of carrying out investignations in "The German Federal Republic, Berlin and the Soviet Zone of Germany."

Since October 7th 1949 there has been no Soviet Zone in Germany. This area is today the German Democratic Republic. This alone could lead us to treat the matter as closed, but we do not wish to base ourselves on a formality.

In the name of the peace-loving German people I declare that the decision of the 6th General Assembly of the U.N. on the establishment of an investigating commission is an intervention in the internal affairs of the German people, a breach of the Potsdam Agreement and of the principles and statutes of the U.N. itself.

The German people are adult enough to decide for themselves on free all-German elections to a National Assembly in accordance with their own wishes and traditions. Any nation, the French or the Swedish or any other people would reject such a proposal with derision.

No cause to change

In the last week of February the U.N.Commission notified representatives of the various parts of Germany of its intention of investigating the conditions for elections. On February 28th the cabinet of the German Democratic Republic announced:

The cabinet sees no reason to add anything to the statement made by the government delegation to the United Nations in Paris on December 11th. The government of the German Democratic Republic finds no cause to change the point of view adopted then.

LETTER TO THE STATES

Heinrich Heine Hotel
Schierke, Harz Mountains
German Democratic Republic
March 5th, 1952

Dear Helen,

Your letter sounded so worried about me— you must be believing what you read in your papers, and I seriously beg you not to. I am writing this from Schierke, where Heinz and I are staying for a couple of weeks.

It is a little resort village high in the mountains about three hours by car from Berlin. It is the first time I have ever been to the mountains in mid-winter, and the heaps of snow and the ski-ing are just as exciting as the hotel where we are staying.

The hotel is really something — an enormous sprawling place which used to be called the "Prince of Stolberg". Inside it is spacious and in excellent taste. It is easy to imagine how it looked say ten years ago, before our government here took it over from the previous nazi owner, and replaced Hitler's picture on the wall with a picture of Heinrich Heine, Germany's beloved poet.

It is all too easy to imagine how things looked then — the Von so-and-sos arm-in-arm with industrialists with shaven heads, the kept women in mink coats, the nazi generals, no Jews allowed, of course, and waiters in dress suits bowing and groveling.

Any similar luxury hotel in West Germany today has practically the same guest list, the only difference being that the officers are not yet in uniform. By the way, the waiters here are still wearing dress suits but they have learned to be friendly and efficient without any scraping and bootlicking. There are good reasons: they are decently paid and do not depend on tips, they are not afraid of losing their jobs, and they can respect the guests, not for money reasons but because they are human beings who do useful and constructive work and really need their vacations.

The guests at this particular hotel are mostly people you can lump together under the term "intelligentsia", a word which always looks foreign in English, and which does not mean long-haired intellectuals at all: they are doctors, writers, students, scientists, factory directors, journalists, engineers, theater and film people, musicians and university professors.

Nearly all the hotels here in Schierke are now run as rest-homes and vacation places by the Trade Unions, and are crammed with foundrymen, coal-face workers, garage hands, shop girls, all of whom would never have been able to dream of such a holiday a few years ago.

The writer of this letter is an American girl, born and bred in New England, who came to East Germany after the war with her husband, an anti-nazi fighter who had to flee the Hitler terror. She prefers not do sign her full name to this open letter because she is afraid it might make trouble for her parents, who live "somewhere in Connecticut".

GERMAN REPORT hopes to bring more "Letters to the States" in future issues.

The prices are fixed so that everybody, really everybody, can afford them, and winter sports equipment is hired out at give-away prices.

It is a treat to visit the ski-hire shop. The atmosphere is quite remarkable, possibly because it's so uncommercial. People of all sizes and kinds come drifting in with skis but no boots, with broken bindings, with sticks too short, and the men in charge distribute and adjust and mend with extraordinary good nature and patience, and no one dreaming of offering or taking tips — it is pure pleasure to watch.

But we don't ski all the time. There is music with the coffee and cake in the lounge in the afternoons, and masses of interesting people to talk to. The three with whom we were talking this afternoon were Max Friedemann, former worker who is now director of the nationally-owned steel foundry at Riesa which employs 16,000 workers; Dr. Correns, the chemist to whom East German women are particularly grateful for inventing Perlon stockings (I like them better than nylon); and Siegbert Kahn, onetime student prize-fighter who is now head of the Institute for Economic Research.

That may sound rather heavy and serious, though it wasn't, but in the evenings things are really gay.

Last evening was particularly lively, since it was the last day of the winter-sports competitions, and everybody in Schierke came crowding into the big hotel auditorium for a magnificent and extremely well organized program of singing, dancing and general fun-making. I think I have never seen such a spontaneous contact between audience and performers. After the handing-out of prizes to the competitors, an earnest appeal was made to everyone to continue the struggle for peace and German unity, and this met with such spontaneous and serious vocal agreement from the audience that it was really moving.

The main dance hall afterwards was crowded with young people, a good many still in their sports clothes and heavy boots, so that the balance between ski-suits and best dresses was about half and half. Incidentally the best dresses are getting to be really best dresses again. Not Harper's Bazaar style perhaps, but well cut dresses in good quality materials at prices everyone can pay.

We did not get to bed until two this morning.

Yours,

Katherine.

JOLLY OLD PALS

British officers stationed in Goettingen, West Germany, entertained former nazi officers on March 5th to celebrate a former joint victory over the French.

The hosts were the officers and sergeants of the 1st Irish Fusiliers, and the guests were the former officers and N.C.O.s of the German 14th Cavalry Regiment.

They were celebrating the joint victory of their regiments over Napoleon at Barrosa.

Many of the nazi guests expressed the hope that they would soon be able to invite their British hosts to their own army mess when their regiment was reformed.

At the same time, in the American Zone, U.S. air ace Major James A. Jabara, on leave from the Korean battlefront, swapped yarns with his nazi opposite number, German fighter ace Heinz Baer, whom Hitler personally decorated with the Knight's Cross for his success in shooting down allied planes.

Democratic
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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

"Arms production in Red Germany" is always one of the favourite subjects of the millionaire newspapers when they have nothing juicier to print, and when they want to divert attention from the very real war production which is getting under way in West Germany.

Now I cannot swear to it from personal inspection that no arms are turned out in the German Democratic Republic, because I have not been everywhere and seen everything, but I have taken the trouble to track down a few of the stories and to see for myself.

Tanks or tractors?

West Berlin and West German papers have charged a number of times for instance that the I. F. A. factory at Brandenburg was turning out tanks. A few months ago, just after one of the accusations, I happened to visit the factory on a lecture trip. When I told the director he laughed and said: "I challenge you to find any single part of a tank in the whole factory. Go where you like, and see what you like. It you find as much as the picture of a tank, I shall stand you a bottle of wine."

So I tramped through the factory, poking my nose into storerooms and smithies, canteens and paint shops. All I could find were agricultural tractors. But I won the bottle of wine, for on the big bill-board in the factory yard there was a picture of a tank, heavily crossed out, with the proud slogan beneath it:

"We produce tractors for peace, not tanks for war."

Flying bomb scare

Another recurrent story about alleged war preparations, most recently revived by the American news agency Associated Press in a message from Berlin on February 17th, tries to conjure up the picture of "top-secret experiments with flying bombs" on the Baltic coast island of Usedom.

Now the nazis actually did have a flying bomb experimental station at Peenemuende, on Usedom Island, but this was so thoroughly destroyed, first by R. A. F. bombers and then after the end of the war by Soviet demolition squads, that only a tangled heap of ruins is left. Together with hundreds of thousands of Germans, who spent their summer holidays on the island in 1951, I saw the ruins while bathing nearby.

So many people, mostly workers enjoying one of the first real holidays of their lives, swarm over the little island during the summer months that it is inconceivable that even the slightest military secret is concealed there.

Early in February the West German trade union leadership decided to get into the act, and on February 6th the magazine "Metall", organ of the metal-workers union, published a new and detailed list of alleged arms factories in the German Democratic Republic. Stralsund dockyards were turning out submarines, stated the paper, the Max foundry was working on armour plate, and the Arado and Heinkel aircraft factories were making jet-fighters, propellers and aircraft bodies.

It was a fine list, it looked very convincing, and it worried many trade unionists who do not want arms production in any part of Germany, either East or West. In a number of factories union groups elected representatives, and at the end of February eleven delegates, Socialists, Christians and non-party men from engineering shops in Hamburg, Dortmund and Kassel, visited the German Democratic Republic.

Non-existent factories

They made their first trip to the Heinkel Works in Oranienburg and the Arado works in Brandenburg. At least they wanted to visit them, but it was impossible, since both factories had been completed demolished in 1945 by the Soviet occupation authorities, carrying out the Potsdam decision that Germany should be completely demilitarised.

The other factories named did exist, but in every case the West German guests found that they were producing solely civilian goods.

I saw the eleven trade union delegates in Berlin, and they are certainly not likely to believe any such scare stories again. Will you?

Beer and raspberries

Germany has some good traditions, as well as the bad ones of militarism, blood and iron. Christmas trees are fine, so are leather shorts, and even the Berlin habit of drinking raspberry juice in beer is all right when you get used to it.

I have always thought that one of the commendable traditions was the fact that even the most serious newspapers and magazines got down off their high horses once a year, on April 1st, and smuggled "April Fool" stories into their columns. Men from Mars, perpetual motion, sea serpents, and advertisements for men to bore holes in Gruyere cheese were hardy annuals.

Last year, for instance, the East German illustrated magazine "Berliner Illustrierte" printed a full page of skilfully faked photographs of centaur skeletons, allegedly uncovered in recent excavations.

Being a fervent supporter of traditions, particularly if they contribute to the cheerfulness of mankind, I had considered planting a few fake April Fool stories in this issue, which will reach most subscribers round about April Fool's Day.

Bloody joke

Then I remembered an April 1st edition of a West German newspaper in 1947. As a patently absurd joke the paper carried a story that nazi generals had been released from jail and entrusted with the leadership of a new German army.

What was then a joke has become bitter bloody earnest today, and the stories which you read in these pages about renazification and remilitarisation in West Germany are no jokes.

What about some fake stories from East Germany then? Here I am afraid I cannot compete with the professionals. In the past few months and years the experts of the western press have churned out almost all the conceivable fakes about the German Democratic Republic. The stories have ranged from killing off Prime Minister Grotewohl, to a magnificent paragraph in the New York Herald Tribune on February 12th stating that the children applauded the wolf at an East Berlin theatre performance of Little Red Riding Hood because they identified him with Wall Street imperialism and apparently liked Wall Street.

I have a fair amount of imagination, but I could never dream up a story to match that one. So I reluctantly abandoned the idea. If you want a laugh on April 1st, just read the millionaire press carefully. It is just as likely to make you cry, though.

Help wanted

Have you seen any odd stories about East Germany in your papers recently? If you want to help GERMAN REPORT to give you the truth about Germany, please help us by sending us cuttings of queer stories about Germany which you find in the millionaire press.

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